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often acquired the local fame which would entitle them to a place in a record like Dr. Sprague's, by oddities rather than by graces, or by services and labors outside of their profession rather than by preaching and the cure of souls. Accordingly, the first two volumes of the "Annals" exceed these last two in variety of character and incident, in the affluence of piquant anecdote and grotesque description, and in the exhibition of the *many-sidedness* of ministerial life. Presbyterianism, on the other hand, never had a legal establishment in this country, but has been compelled to conquer by "the sword of the Spirit" all the ground it occupies. Its ministers have, for the most part, won and held their places because they were fitted for them, and laborious in them. With few exceptions they have given themselves wholly to their work, with such subsidiary avocations in teaching or agriculture as were necessary to eke out their support in new or feeble churches, and in sparsely settled districts. The circumstance that has impressed us most of all in these narratives, is the very large number of men of surpassing ability, endowments, and sanctity, who have been settled for life, or for many years, in very obscure localities and humble pastorates. And the "Annals" give us the name of hardly a single Presbyterian divine whose eminence was not solely or chiefly professional. These volumes, therefore, are a richer, more instructive, and more edifying contribution to *clerical* biography than their predecessors. The entire work, when completed, will constitute, we believe, the most copious series of detailed biographies ever dedicated to a single profession, collected under one title, or brought together by the industry of any one author or compiler.

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17. — *The New American Cyclopædia: a Popular Dictionary of General Knowledge.* Edited by GEORGE RIPLEY and CHARLES A. DANA. Vol. I. *A — Araguay.* New York: D. Appleton & Co. 1858. 8vo. pp. 752.

WE intend, in the progress of this great national work, to give it a thorough examination as to its positive and comparative merits. Our present limits will permit us to note but a few of its prominent features. The first point of interest is its copiousness. A contemporary journal informs us that this volume contains 2,531 articles, — "more than twice the number in the corresponding portion of the 'Americana,' and nearly a half more than in the last edition of the 'Conversations-Lexikon.'" As regards accuracy, our own verification under a few heads would furnish a very inadequate testimony, which, however, is confirmed, so

far as we know, by the limited examination which others have as yet been able to give it. A far surer guaranty we have in the well-known and long-established reputation of the senior editor for breadth and thoroughness of scholarly attainment, in the similar prestige attached in the minds of many to the name of his coadjutor, and in the very large number of eminent men in every profession and department who are engaged as contributors. We doubt whether either of the great English Cyclopædias, notwithstanding the world-wide fame of individual contributors, has employed a larger or more various array of learning and ability. An important and valuable characteristic of the work is, that, with very few exceptions, while it embodies the latest ascertained truths or facts, it excludes theories and speculations still *sub lite*, and is, therefore, a dictionary of things now known, not of things merely believed or anticipated. The articles are, of course, most of them brief; and the long articles are not on subjects on which those curious with regard to them have access to special treatises, but either on themes that are or ought to be of universal interest, or on those which are peculiarly American. The volume is especially rich and full under American titles. In biography it has one feature which will greatly enhance its worth for many years to come. It does not, as has been the case with similar works, confine itself to the names of deceased persons, but it contains also those of such living men as, were they deceased, would have a place in its pages. The sketches of those still upon the stage are wrought out with becoming delicacy and perfect impartiality, so that they relate only what would, in the lapse of time, have found its way into permanent records. To these and numerous other claims upon the most approving criticism, the work will add that of compactness and comparative cheapness, the prospectus limiting its compass to fifteen volumes, at the exceedingly low price of three dollars each. At the same time the rapid issue of the volumes will insure the homogeneity of their contents, — no small praise, when we remember that, in the case of several of the great European works of the kind, many of the articles in the earlier volumes had become obsolete before the concluding volumes were printed.

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18. — *Biography of Elisha Kent Kane*. By WILLIAM ELDER. Philadelphia: Childs and Peterson. 1858. 8vo. pp. 416.

THE last hundred and thirty pages of this volume are occupied with an account of the funeral honors rendered to Dr. Kane, at Havana, on the homeward route, and in Philadelphia. This narrative has an en-